

What's on the Shelf?

Review By Helen Marketti

Interview with Angie McCartney "My Long and Winding Road"

In her autobiography, *My Long and Winding Road* (ROK Books), Angie McCartney found herself in the midst of Beatlemania when she married Paul McCartney's father, Jim in November of 1964. They were introduced through mutual friends at a party and when she met Jim, Angie knew in her heart that she would marry him one day. They both knew the sadness of losing a spouse as Jim's wife, Mary passed away from breast cancer and Angie's husband, Eddie passed away in a car accident. Angie had one daughter, Ruth who Jim adopted. The book will take the reader on a journey that is not only "Beatle related" but also a life filled with experiences that only the unfolding of time could bring.

"I was inspired to write my book after reading the autobiography of former President, Bill Clinton," said Angie. "I had been half-heartedly thinking about writing a book on and off over the years. Sometimes when I would sit with visiting company, I would recall funny stories and things that happened. People started telling me that I should write a book. It sounded nice but I have kept very busy by doing the book keeping for our media company. However, after I met former President Clinton and reading his book, I started seriously thinking about writing my own. I started sitting at my computer, documenting notes and things I remembered until I had accumulated quite a buildup of material."

Angie continues, "Last year I was attending

a business meeting in Hollywood on a totally unrelated topic. I was meeting with Jonathan Kendrick of ROK Books and I made a funny comment about something, and then joked that I should put that in my book. He perked up and said, "Book? Are you writing a book? I'll publish it for you." Once he said that I knew I really had to get down to it then and get the book done. Ruth (daughter) and Martin (son-in-law) kept nudging me a little bit each day, checking in to see if I had written anything. In fact, I'm already working on an audio book with my son-in-law, Martin, which will have added chapters of more stories I have remembered and would like to include."

"It's amazing, isn't it?" Angie said when commenting on fifty years of interest in The Beatles. "I've attended Beatle-related events and have seen little kids singing the words to each song and they're there with a grandparent. I think when the boys first came to America (February 1964) it was at the right place at the right time. America was still in a somber feeling after the loss of President Kennedy. A few months later, here come these four funny and silly boys who didn't give a fig about convention and blew everybody away."

There have been many stories that have circulated over time about the origin for The Beatles song, "Blackbird". Angie explains the meaning behind the song. "My mother, Edie had not felt very well and was staying with Jim and I. One evening Paul stopped over and visited with Edie asking if she sleeps OK and she said "off and on" but she always hears the blackbird that seems to chirp at night. Paul listened at the window with Edie and sure enough, the bird started his evening song. I have a cassette tape from the studio where you can hear Paul say, "This next one is for Edie" which was the song, Blackbird. The tape is very special to me. It's one of my treasures."

In addition to promoting her book, Angie is keeping very busy with a host of other projects and responsibilities. "McCartney Media is a business that Ruth, Martin and I run. We help clients launch their web sites and so much more. I do all of the scheduling, invoicing and the HR duties," said Angie. "It's probably the

most interesting job I have had. We have been in business for 19 years. It can be a challenge to keep tabs on everything especially with technology changing almost on a daily basis."

Angie has her own brand of teas. "It was about five years ago on a Fourth of July at a party we had hosted. A friend of ours preferred to have a cup of tea and commented that certainly we must have some tea because you couldn't get more English than tea and The Beatles. After he said that, the idea started to germinate and went from there. We do receive many orders on line. It's not an overly large headquarters as our main office operates out of our garage at the moment." (laughs)

Angie keeps doing all of the things she enjoys and living a life with more goals to fulfill. "I might be 83 years old but I don't have time to grow old."

For more information on Angie McCartney, her book, teas and the offerings of McCartney Media: www.mccartney.com
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